

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1-40. Cancelled

41. (Currently Amended) A method to assess an entity, comprising:

selecting, through a computer system, a rubric having associated rubric information, where said rubric information includes at least one benchmark, at least one criteria associated with each said at least one benchmark, and at least one score associated with each said at least one benchmark;

receiving, from an input device, contextual ~~inputting a machine-readable representation of~~ assessment input information associated with an entity, said contextual assessment input information comprising an identification of a combination of the entity, an input type and the rubric;

converting, by the computer system, the contextual assessment input information into a machine readable representation;

mapping, by the computer system, said machine readable representation of said contextual assessment input information to said rubric information to yield results of said mapping; and

storing, by the computer system, said results of said mapping;

where said contextual assessment input information includes an assessment element, and where mapping said contextual assessment input information to said rubric information includes mapping said assessment element to at least one matching benchmark included within said rubric information and further includes mapping said contextual assessment input information to said at least one matching criteria and to said at least one matching score associated with said matching benchmark;

where the storing the results of the mapping includes storing said matching score and any combination of said matching benchmark, said matching criteria, identification of said entity and

of said rubric; and

where the mapping the contextual assessment input information to the rubric information further creates a new benchmark within said rubric information during the mapping of said contextual assessment input information to said matching benchmark.

42. (New) A method as in claim 41, wherein the input device comprises a video camera.

43. (New) A method as in claim 41, wherein the input device comprises a microphone.

44. (New) A method as in claim 41, wherein the input device comprises a digital camera.

45. (New) A method as in claim 41, wherein the computer system is configurable to convert audio or visual contextual assessment input information into the machine readable representation.

46. (New) A computer system comprising:

an input device configured to capture contextual assessment input information associated with an entity, said contextual assessment input information comprising an identification of a combination of the entity, an input type and a rubric having associated rubric information;

a processor configured to select the rubric having associated rubric information, where said rubric information includes at least one benchmark, at least one criteria associated with each said at least one benchmark, and at least one score associated with each said at least one benchmark, the processor further configured to convert the contextual assessment input information into a machine readable representation and map said machine readable representation of said contextual assessment input information to said rubric information to yield results of said mapping; and

a storage unit configured to store said results of said mapping;

where said contextual assessment input information includes an assessment element, and where the mapping said assessment input information to said rubric information includes mapping said assessment element to at least one matching benchmark included within said rubric information;

where the mapping the contextual assessment input information to the rubric information further creates a new benchmark within said rubric information during the mapping of said contextual assessment input information to said at least one matching benchmark.

47. (New) A computer system as in claim 46, where the mapping said assessment input information to said rubric information further includes mapping said contextual assessment input information to said at least one matching criteria and to said at least one matching score associated with said matching benchmark.

48. (New) A computer system as in claim 46, where storing the results of the mapping includes storing said matching score and any combination of said matching benchmark, said matching criteria, identification of said entity and of said rubric.

49. (New) A computer system as in claim 46, wherein the input device comprises a video camera.

50. (New) A computer system as in claim 46, wherein the input device comprises a microphone.

51. (New) A computer system as in claim 46, wherein the input device comprises a digital camera.

52. (New) A computer system as in claim 46, wherein the processor is configured to convert audio or visual contextual assessment input information into the machine readable representation

53. (New) A computer readable storing medium embodied with computer code that when executed by a processor performs operations comprising:

selecting, through a computer system, a rubric having associated rubric information, where said rubric information includes at least one benchmark, at least one criteria associated with each said at least one benchmark, and at least one score associated with each said at least one benchmark;

receiving, from an input device, contextual assessment input information associated with

an entity, said contextual assessment input information comprising an identification of a combination of the entity, an input type and the rubric;

converting, by the computer system, the contextual assessment input information into a machine readable representation;

mapping, by the computer system, said machine readable representation of said contextual assessment input information to said rubric information to yield results of said mapping; and

storing, by the computer system, said results of said mapping;

where said contextual assessment input information includes an assessment element, and where the mapping said assessment input information to said rubric information includes mapping said assessment element to at least one matching benchmark included within said rubric information;

where the mapping the contextual assessment input information to said rubric information further creates a new benchmark within said rubric information during the mapping of said contextual assessment input information to said at least one matching benchmark.

54. (New) A computer system as in claim 53, where the mapping said assessment input information to said rubric information further includes mapping said contextual assessment input information to said at least one matching criteria and to said at least one matching score associated with said matching benchmark.

55. (New) A computer system as in claim 53, where storing the results of the mapping includes storing said matching score and any combination of said matching benchmark, said matching criteria, identification of said entity and of said rubric.

56. (New) A computer readable storing medium as in claim 53, wherein the input device comprises a video camera.

57. (New) A computer readable storing medium as in claim 53, wherein the input device comprises a microphone.

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58. (New) A computer readable storing medium as in claim 53, wherein the input device comprises a digital camera.

59. (New) A computer readable storing medium as in claim 53, wherein the computer system is configured to convert audio or visual contextual assessment input information into the machine readable representation.

60. (New) A computer readable storing medium as in claim 53, wherein the rubric comprises multiple levels of criteria, wherein the multiple levels of criteria are represented by an interface technique for representing multiple dimensions of information associated with the rubric.